



The

GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
March 2018 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 27, Issue 3



Welcome our new GARS Officers for 2018! (See Page 4)



Message from the President

Please allow me to first express my sincere gratitude for the job well done by our 2017 Officers and Committee Chairs. 2017, as in years past, was an incredible year for the club with many accomplishments. The leadership and service from these fine folks served our members very well. On one hand, I feel honored to serve GARS and look forward to a wonderful year. On the other hand, I realize the tremendous responsibility to serve the members as I'm sure each of my predecessors felt.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to visit several clubs around the state and around the country. GARS is in a unique position that only a few clubs can share. Many clubs suffer from internal politics and constant turmoil that keep them from serving the Amateur Radio community and especially its members. I have seen many clubs that do not enjoy and cultivate a close relationship with their local ARES group. That's not GARS and I give credit to our club's past leadership and especially our members who are always willing to participate, take on responsibilities, share Amateur Radio with others and serve our community. The club has cultivated many relationships over the years that not only help the club, but make us a significant part of the community. **Most of all, we have fun!** Let's take a moment to pat ourselves on the back.

We're entering the season for many exciting activities. The Georgia QSO Party, May



"The club has cultivated many relationships over the years that not only help the club, but make us a significant part of the community. "

Madness, the Dacula Memorial Day Parade and best of all Field Day are all right around the corner. Check the GARS Calendar on the website to get these dates on your calendar. Don't forget our GARS Workshop on the third Tuesdays of each month. Dave, W4DTR, hosts the Workshop each month with an interesting topic for newbies and "experienced" members as well. We can always use some Elmers attending to help our new Hams and new members learn about the many aspects of Amateur Radio.

We're off to a great year in 2018 for GARS. I look forward to serving the club as President. Please feel free to call on any of the Officers and Committee Chairs for any assistance or suggestions.

73, *John Davis*, WB4QDX

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."

[Author Unknown]



GARS March Meeting and Workshop

Communications Systems of Gwinnett County

by John Davis, WB4QDX
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 7:00 pm

An Introduction to Digital Clients and Modes

by Bill Hawkins, WR1TR
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:00 pm

Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1
690 Airport Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

[Directions to EAA Hangar](#)

INSIDE

Member QRZ Pages	Pg 4
GARS Happenings.....	Pg 5
Beginner's Corner.....	Pg 8
Net Manager's Corner	Pg 9
GARS Membership Page.....	Pg 10
Contests and Hamfests	Pg 13
GARS Event Schedule	Pg 14
VE Testing / Schedules	Pg 15

GARS Communications

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)
<u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	Other Resources: <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>D-Star</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

**Don't forget
to support our
advertisers at the
back of the
GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>
Newsletter Editor: editor@gars.org Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

K4SWV - John Dreggors

When you click on the link below you will find this picture.

<http://qrz.com/lookup/N4TTY>

Read the notes and get to know him better. You'll be glad you did.

Here is an excerpt from the page:

Married, Daughter in college, Dog by my side, Professional Santa Claus during the Christmas season. Hiker, Backpacker, Hunter, Kayaker (flat water), My wife (KK4SWJ) and I do advanced firearms training together, I reload my own ammo, I'm a low time private pilot, and I've recently taken up running at the age of 55.

I own a small Commercial and Industrial HVAC & Electrical business in the metro Atlanta area.

Member of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society GARS and the Alford Memorial Radio Club (Stone Mountain)

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!



News, Press Releases, & General Interest

Welcome our new GARS Officers for 2018!

Front cover, clockwise from top:

President – John Davis, WB4QDX

Program Chairman – Randy Collins, N4COR

Vice President – Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO

Treasurer – Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

Secretary – Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Thanks to our outgoing GARS officers for their service:

President - Mike Weathers, ND4V

Vice President - Rick Cobb, N4XYY

Secretary - Leland Ford, K9SDR

Treasurer Sid - Weaver, N4NQ

Program Manager - Paul Kelley, W4KLY

GARS Happenings

Member Recognition

A rising star in the Amateur Radio world —19-year old Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, of Lawrenceville, Georgia — has caught the eye of her school, Kettering University in Michigan, where she is majoring in mechanical engineering and engineering physics. Willet already has attracted attention through her ham radio activities. Last spring, she was the keynote speaker at the 32nd annual DX Dinner® held in conjunction with Hamvention®, where her topic was “Experiencing the Hobby of a Lifetime.” The previous summer she was a member of the 2016 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure (YDXA), which operated from the island of Saba that year. Last year, she won the QST Cover Plaque Award for the article she wrote about her YDXA experience. At the 30th Hamvention Youth Forum in 2017, Willet spoke on “Plugging into Your Valuable Club Resources.” She is the recipient of the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Scholarship.



Kettering University News took notice of Willet in a [February 12 article](#), “Kettering University Student Brings Ham Radio Hobby, Expertise to Campus,” by Sarah Schuch. The article explains how an early fascination with Morse code led Willet into ham radio and inspired her to obtain her license in 2015. She now holds an Amateur Extra-class license.

“I would encourage people to consider exploring Amateur Radio, because it’s a hobby that allows you to explore anything from technical electronics to international friendships,” Willet is quoted in the article. “It’s such a special hobby because there’s so many people that want to get to know you and want to help you learn and grow. It really has enabled me to mature into who I am today.”

Set to graduate in 2021, Willet said her ham radio experiences have taught her a lot, some of which she is able to apply to her studies, and vice versa. She hopes to start an Amateur Radio club on campus this spring to get more students interested. In the article, Willet also pointed to Amateur Radio’s public service role, citing the devastating 2017 hurricanes, where ham radio sometimes was the only available communication resource.

Ruth Willet and her mom Sharon, KM4TVU, participated in ARRL’s highly successful National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, which also was mentioned in the Kettering article.

“It’s a stress relief for me,” Willet said in the article. “I really enjoy sharing this hobby with other students.”

In other news:

International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE), the premier annual event for communications technology professionals, is joining forces with ETA International, the Radio Club of America and the Association for Federal Communications Consulting Engineers (AFCCE) to bring the next-generation of critical communications professionals to IWCE 2018 to provide them with training and introductions to industry professionals as they create a blueprint for careers in the wireless communications industry. IWCE will take place March 5-9, 2018 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

The 2018 IWCE Scholarship Awards winners include GARS member Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, who was awarded the Radio Club of America’s Young Achiever’s Award.

The scholarship criteria and winners are selected by each of the associations. IWCE covers all travel expenses for scholarship winners and will provide a complimentary Premium Package conference pass, which includes access to IWCE’s five-day conference program.

Sources: <http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-a-special-hobby-young-arrl-member-tells-college-publication>, <http://www.criticalcommunicationsreview.com/ccr/news/95942/eta-international-the-radio-club-of-america-and-affce-collaborate-with-iwce-to-offer-iwce-2018-scholarships>

GARS Happenings (cont'd)



Ham Cram

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society will be conducting a
“Ham Cram” for an entry level Technician Class License
on Saturday March 31, 2018
8:00am to 5:30pm.

Class Location:
Gwinnett County Emergency Operations Center
800 Hi Hope Road
Lawrenceville, GA

There will be a license Exam session
immediately after the class.

The cost is \$20.00 and includes lunch and exam fee.
The cost for Youth (age 21 or younger) is \$5.00

***Pre-registration is Required ***
*** There is a no refund policy for no shows ***

The class will be using the HamRadioSchool.com
Technician License Course study guide.

Further information may be found at
www.gars.org.

GARS Happenings (cont'd)

Please join us for the 2018 Georgia QSO Party.

The Georgia QSO Party is sponsored by the [South East Contest Club](#) and the [Southeastern DX Club](#).

2017 marked the 57th (nearly) consecutive year that the Georgia QSO Party (GQP) has been challenging amateurs all over the world with the best award/plaque program in the US. Hopefully all 159 Georgia counties will be on the air this year. The GQP is held in a pair of ten-hour sessions on the second full weekend in April; this year that will be April 14th and 15th, 2018.

For more information about the GQP, go to www.georgiqsoparty.org

—When—

Saturday, April 14, 2018 – 9:30AM – 8:00PM Local

Sunday, April 15, 2018 – 9:30AM – 4:00PM Local

—Where—

EAA 690 Hangar

690 Airport Rd

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Lat/Lon ==> 33.9794285N / 83.9682776W

Map =====> <https://goo.gl/maps/wAmYoU2dqAt>

—Who—

ALL Area Radio Amateurs are Invited

—Description—

Come out and have some fun operating with us. Please join us for a Dutch breakfast at the Golden Corral (2155 Riverside Parkway Lawrenceville, GA 30045) starting at 7:30am on Saturday, or plan to meet us at the EAA 690 Hangar (our regular GARS Meeting location) anytime after 9:30am on Saturday.

We will setup the antennas and equipment and provide some lunch (probably pizza), and be ready to begin operating at 2:00pm (that's the official start time for the GQP on Saturday). We plan to have four stations (2 – CW, 2 – SSB) on the air operating while we are there during the QSO Party.

We will provide some dinner Saturday evening around 6:00pm (probably hot dogs and chili), and break for the night by 9:00pm. We will come back on Sunday starting at 9:30am and be ready to begin operating at 10:00am (that's the official start time for the GQP on Sunday). We will provide some lunch (TBD) and continue to operate until around 4:00pm. Then, we will take down the antennas and pack up the equipment.

For ARES members – helping with setup, or operating at this event, counts as a field qualifying event.

Send questions about the GARS activity to [Pam WB1AKQ](#) or [Dave W4DTR](#)

Source: <http://www.gars.org/gars/georgia-qso-party/>

Beginner's Corner

Spring Cleaning

As I write this the daffodils in are yard have bloomed and the blossoms on the trees are in full bloom. Spring is in the air! This is a time where men's and women's hearts turn to – well they should turn to getting the radios and auxiliary equipment ready for the lovely warm weather.

First things first. I assume that many of you have only your handy-talkie (HT) with some kind of a whip antenna other than the one that came with your radio. This is the perfect time to check the battery, and even perhaps purchase an extra battery. Nice weather is coming and it is wonderful to take that HT to the park or wherever you like to go. Having it along gives you something fun to do while taking that hike or even sitting somewhere in the shade. While you are out and about, why not take along an external antenna or two? You can grab a magnetic mount antenna for the bands your radio has and stick it on top of your vehicle. Voila! You now have a mobile radio! You can take that magnetic mount off your vehicle and place it on a pizza tin or some other metal object when you have reached your destination. You are now set up for some super mobile operation. Hey, there is even a commercially available J-pole antenna available. Get a few feet of coaxial cable, and a couple adapters. Tie a small rock with a length of cord or rope, throw the rock over a tree limb and hook your J-pole antenna. You now have a perfect place from which to enjoy your amateur radio hobby!

Before you go out you might want to see if you need to add any repeaters to your radio's capabilities. There have been some new repeaters in the area, and they might just work in your temporary location, even if they don't work at home. Check with your club's web site. Check with web sites from nearby clubs, as well. Alternatively, you can look in the latest ARRL Repeater Book. There may be some new entries there. RadioReference.com might list new repeaters, as well.

Some of us have external antennas. Spring is the perfect time to check them. It is not too hot this time of year. That lessens the discomfort of either going up to the antenna and checking things out. Look for corrosion. Are the connections secure? Are they adequately protected against the elements? Different hams have different ideas about weather protection where the coax meets the antenna. Some use coax seal. Others prefer a layer of electrical tape and then a layer of rubber tape covering that to keep wind and moisture out. It would be a good idea to replace whatever seal is there. When you remove the old sealing, look for moisture or signs of it. You may need to do some cleaning, first. While you are at it, perhaps you or a friend has a SWR meter or an antenna analyzer to check your antenna's performance. **SAFETY FIRST!** Do not climb anywhere that you are unsure of. Make sure you have good footwear and a hard hat. Never climb a radio tower unless you are a certified climber. Never climb alone. Get a friend to help you.

While you are checking your antenna, don't forget to check the cable, either. We do not get much snow in the Atlanta area, but we do have our share of rain and humidity. Moisture is the great enemy of amateur radio operators. Moisture wears away at both the antenna and the cable. Look for nicks and tears in the cable jacket (the outer layer of the cable). Also look for moisture. I have heard of one person who was checking an antenna system and found over a teaspoon of water. Not good! Eventually the cable and antenna will have to be replaced, but good maintenance will delay the need for replacement for a long time.

73 de *David Harden*, KJ4CMY



Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only fifteen primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Ruth - KM4LAO	Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX
Bill - KK4AUA	David - KK4KAF	Kevin - KK4WOG
Chuck - KK4TKJ	Mike - KK4KHS	Donna - KM4FMW

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager

GARS Membership Page

New GARS Members in February

Tom Egan

New Members: 1

**Total Members as of March 1, 2018
292**

**Join GARS members for our
weekly breakfast gathering at
7:30 AM most Saturdays**

at

**Golden Corral
2155 Riverside Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

([Directions](#))

**The following members are
celebrating birthdays
in March:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS**

**David Bruse (W4DTR)
William Santangelo (KM4EQS)
Mike Smith (KK4KHS)
Benjamin Team (W3BLT)
Marvin Whatley (KK4QCI)
Jackson Wiggs (KM4GBJ)
Brent Woodman (N2BAB)
Ed Woodrick (WA4YIH)**



GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - membership@gars.org

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

(Continued from page 12)

February 13 Meeting Minutes:

President Mike Weathers (ND4V) opened the meeting at 7:00pm local in the EAA 690 Hanger Lawrenceville, GA.

Introductions and Visitors: Six visitors were recognized and full Introductions of attendees followed. 67 were in attendance.

The Report was motioned, seconded and unanimously voted as accepted.

Membership Chair: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) reported for the Membership Chair that Membership is at 300.

Program Chair: Paul Kelley (W4KLY) - Upcoming Programs: **March:** ARES updates of the Group and Activities; **April:** Communications systems of Gwinnett County.

Appreciation: Mike Weather (ND4V) recognized the GARzette Editor, Bill Eggers (WB2RIS) for doing an outstanding job creating and distributing the monthly Club newsletter.

The Nomination Committee: Presented Officer Team Nominations as:

President – John Davis (WB4QDX)

Vice President – Sandy Jackson (KJ4DRO)

Secretary – Joe Biddle (AD4PZ)

Treasurer – Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ)

Program Chairman – Randy Collins (N4COR)

A call to vote for the standing nominated team via acclamation was a unanimous consensus.

Tech Fest Chair: Neal Gilchrist (W4HNG) reported over 300 folks visited. All display tables were filled. Some forums were standing room only. The Grand Prize winner of the Yaesu FT-991 – Brian Jones (KD4UYP)

Winter Field Day Chair: Dave Bruse (W4DTR) reports the GARS Winter Field Day a huge success with 517 total Q's or 10,806 points with 4 Stations. Top QSO's were made by Mike Weathers (ND4V) with 109 CW contacts.

Fund Raiser (Dog Show) Chair: David Adcock (KA4KKF) stated the weather was cool and rainy, but the Next Dog Show Fund Raiser in the week of August 26th promises to be Warmer.

Georgia QSO Party Chair: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) announces this year event is 4/14 – 4/15 and is looking for someone to cross train to take Chair this effort next year in 2019. Contact her if interested: wb1akq@arrl.net.

GARS Workshop Program: Mike Weathers (ND4V) and Dave Bruse (W4DTR) announced the workshop 2/20/2018 would be an Introduction to FT8 and WSJT-X by Bill Eggers (WB2RIS)

Announcements:

John Davis (WB4QDX) reminded us of Ham Cram coming up Saturday, March 31 at the EOC. Cost \$20 which covers the Exam fee (\$14) and Lunch (\$6).

Steve Back (WB2OGY) mentions the Venture Crew 73 program is back with fresh new members.

Norm Schklar (WA4ZXV) announced the Atlanta Science Festal in Piedmont Park on March 24th from 10am – 4pm. Needs 4-5 folks to assist.

Mike Smith (KK4KHS) announced an upcoming Alford Memorial Fox Hunt and BBQ on April 7th starting point at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. BBQ will be served for \$6-7 and more info forthcoming.

Reed Fisher (W2CQH) announces an Antique Radio Swap meet at the American Legion Post #201 In Alpharetta on February 17. Also there will be a presentation on WWII Spy Radios and Amelia Earhart Expedition.

BREAK

















Program:

Presented by Mike Weathers (ND4V) on Logbook of The World (LoTW) and ARRL Grid Chasing.





The Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm.

73, *Joe*, AD4PZ, Incoming GARS Secretary

GARS Officers and Committee Chairs

John Davis President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins Program Manager	N4COR	
Karen Albritton Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Dorothy Jubon Public Information Officer	N2DLJ	
Ralph Pickwick Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Neal Gilchrist TechFest Chair	W4HNG	
Bill Eggers GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers WAS-Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Mitch Matteau Winter Field Day Chair	N0DIM	
Pam Meridy GA QSO Party Chair	WB1AKQ	
Kyle Albritton Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	

DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	
Mike Weathers	ND4V	
Rick Cobb	N4XY Y	
Bill Cherepy W4GR Trustee	WB4WTN	

Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added



L&M Mobility

Robert (Mike) Smith
 5191 La Paloma Dr.
 Lilburn, GA 30047
 Phone (404)-509-3104
Smithrm70@hotmail.com

SERVICE & REPAIR
 Power Chairs • Lift Chairs • Scooters

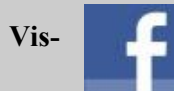
GARS on Social Media

GARS has moved from Yahoo Groups to Groups.io!

If you were subscribed to the Yahoo group, you have been automatically enrolled in Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:
<http://gars.org/groups.io>



it GARS on Facebook:
<http://gars.org/facebook>



Join GARS on YouTube:
<http://gars.org/youtube>



Follow GARS on Twitter:
<http://gars.org/twitter>

January 9 Meeting Minutes:

President Mike Weathers, ND4V called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. First time visitors, new members, and ticket upgrades were acknowledged. Introductions were given.

General Business

Treasurer Sid Weaver, N4NQ, gave the treasure's report. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed by unanimous consent. Karen Albritton, KI4HPP, gave the membership report. GARS now has 296 members.

Event Recaps & General Updates

GARSware Chair, Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC reported that club stickers for mounting on your vehicles and equipment are now available. Contact him for your GARSware needs.

Upcoming Events

Dave Bruse, W4DTR reported that this month's training workshop will be held Tuesday January 16 at the EAA hanger. Facility will open at 6:30PM and meeting starts at 7:00PM. It will be on International Grid Chase and Beginning LOTW. Signup for LOTW and bring your computer and software.

Dave also report that the regularly scheduled exam session is coming up next weekend January 14.

David Adcock, KA4KKF, reminded everyone that the Dog show fundraiser is Feb 1-4. Please sign up on the website.

Techfest Chair, Neal Gilchrist, W4HNG again reminded everyone that Techfest is coming up January 20, 2018. It will be held again at the Gwinnett Medical Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville. Everything is free except extra raffle tickets. There will be a chili cook-off and plenty of door prizes. Grand prize is a Yaesu FT-991. Exam session will be free this year.

Mike Weathers, ND4V reported the GARS Yahoo group is going to be moving to the Groups.io site. We will be going live March 1. Nothing is required on your part to switch to the new system other than you accepting the invitation when notified by email.

Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV reported that Techfest raffle tickets for the FT-991 are available for sale on the Techfest website. Cost is 5 for \$20. Don't have to be present to win.

Club Vice President Rick Cobb, N4XYY, reported that he had a shack audio demonstration setup in the front of the room that can be reviewed during the break.

Program

Our speaker for January was club Vice President Rick Cobb, N4XYY. He presented a very interesting program on ham shack audio and explained the benefits of having an audio mixer and equalizer in the shack.

Meeting concluded at 8:49pm.

73, *Leland*, K9SDR, Outgoing GARS Secretary

(Continued on page 11)

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

March 2018

3-4 [International DX- Phone](#)

April 2018

15 [Rookie Roundup - Phone](#)

June 2018

9-11 [June VHF](#)

16 [Kid's Day](#)

23-24 [Field Day](#)

July 2018

9-11 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2018

4-5 [222 MHz & Up Distance Contest](#)

18-19 [10 GHz and Up - Round 1](#)

19 [Rookie Roundup - RTTY](#)

September 2018

8-10 [September VHF](#)

15-16 [10 GHz & Up—Round 2](#)

29-30 [EME - 2.3 GHz And Up](#)

October 2018

15-19 [School Club Roundup](#)

27-28 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

November 2018

24-25 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

3-5 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)

17-19 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

30 [160 Meter \(Day 1\)](#)

December 2018

1-2 [160 Meter \(Days 2 and 3\)](#)

8-9 [10 Meter](#)

16 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

03/02/2018 | [Alabama State Convention \(BirmingHAMfest 2018\)](#)

Location: Irondale, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4cue.com>

04/21/2018 | [Byron Hamfest](#)

Location: Byron, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.wa4ort.com>

04/28/2018 | [Savannah Hamfest & Swapmeet](#)

Location: Savannah, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

Website: http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=731

06/02/2018 | [Georgia Section Convention \(Atlanta Hamfestival\)](#)

Location: Marietta, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club (W4BTI)

Website: <http://atlantahamfest.org>

08/18/2018 | [Southeastern Division Convention \(Huntsville Hamfest\)](#)

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Association

Website: <http://www.hamfest.org>

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

Note: When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL **Delta:** TN **Roanoke:** NC, SC

GARS Events Calendar for 2018		GARS Recurring Calendar
Dog Show Fundraisers Tech HamCrams TechFest (www.techfest.info) Winter Field Day Georgia QSO Party North metro area Fox Hunt May Madness Memorial Day Parade ARC/KARC Hamfest Field Day General HamCram JOTA Maker Faire Stone Mt. Hamfest Christmas Party	February 1-4, August March 31, October January 20 January 27 & 28 April 14 & 15 April May (That's Right!) May 28 June 2 June 23 & 24 July October October November December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly club meeting ♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Training Workshop ♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm: GARS Ham Exam Session Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519 ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater ♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater ♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast Golden Corral Restaurant 2155 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043
April GARS Speaker Gwinnett ARES Update By Hal Collier, W4IGE		

GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	1	2	3
	7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net					7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net					7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm Gwinnett Co. Fire Station #24	7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting				7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm Training Workshop				7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net					7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast 8 AM—5:30 PM Technician HamCram

Metro Testing Sessions

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)

VEC: WCARS

Braselton Public Utility Building

4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA

Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T

(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560

w4rlg@bellsouth.net

First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

VEC: WCARS

Hall County EOC

470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.

Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD

(770) 536-3056

Second Saturday

10:00 AM

Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center

13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004

Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK

E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com

Second Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL

8:30 a.m.

GMC Community Ctr

5325 Leon St.

Stone Mountain, GA

Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP

(678) 467-3712

Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm

Fire Station #24

Mall of Georgia Boulevard

Buford, GA 30519

Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

E-mail: exams@gars.org

Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg

66 McElroy Street

Winder, GA 30680

Contact: Steve Donellan, N5SMD

(404) 520-0368

E-mail: n5smd@comcast.net

(cont. next column)

Ham Exam Results

February Results

The GARS VE team had a successful exam session on February 12. Five applicants tested and all five passed exams as follows:

- ◆ One new Technician class
- ◆ Two upgraded to General class
- ◆ One reactivated his General class license by taking the Tech exam.
- ◆ One applicant successfully passed all elements to earn his Amateur Extra license in one sitting. Congratulations to Brian Marshall, KX4BD for his accomplishment!

Many thanks to the following VE's who made the session possible:

Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)

Rick Cobb, N4XY

Donna McCord, KM4FMW

Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC

Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

Frank Haynes, KV4SP

73, Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ
(Co-CVE)

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org

GARS VE Website:

<https://groups.io/g/GARS-VE-Team>

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7 pm @ United Way Service Center

6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville

Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK

(770) 942-6466

Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech

VanLeer Elec. Building

Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.

For more information go to

www.w4aql.com and click on "Test Sessions"

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

Downtown Marietta

Fire Station #1, Training Room

112 Haynes Street

Marietta, Georgia 30060

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ

1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta

Meeting is at 7:30pm

Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library

1344 South Broad Street, Commerce

Meeting is at 6:30pm

Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218

Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.

Georgia Tech Campus

Meeting at 7:00pm

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church

Annistown Rd & Spain Rd

Stone Mountain

Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club

Board Room of The Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta

at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept

Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

13450 Cogburn Road

Alpharetta, GA 30004

meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to: <http://www.gars.org/>

Serving You From Coast to Coast and Around the World



**Order Toll-Free From a Location Near You
Or Take Advantage of Secure 24-Hour Ordering:**

<http://www.hamradio.com>

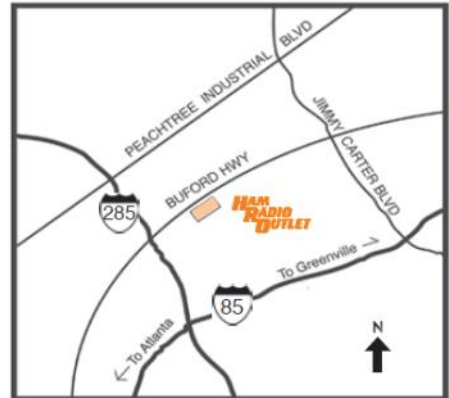


If your closest 800 number is busy, please call one of our other numbers.

Phone Hours: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday – Saturday

All Stores Open 10am - 5:30pm Monday - Saturday

24-Hour FAX Order Lines at all Store Locations



ATLANTA, GA 30340

6071 Buford Hwy, Doraville

1 mile north of I-285

(770) 263-0700

(800) 444-7927

24 Hour FAX (770) 263-9548

Email: atlanta@hamradio.com

Toll Free Numbers:

Northeast (800) 644-4476

West (800) 854-6046

Southeast (800) 444-7927

Mountain (800) 444-9476

Mid-Atlantic (800) 444-4799

New England (800) 444-0047

Manager:

Mark KJ4VO

David AI4XL

Denise

Josh W4JDH

Jim N1ABM

James KK4WNX

Ken KI4BQS

Ray W4GQQ

Harold KD8DVY

Ham Radio Outlet App available at:



**INTERBOROREFRIGERATION
HVAC/R**

All branch Ice Machine
Walk-in Box Cooler

Licensed by E.P.A.

Central A/C - Heater and Water Heater
All Commercial Refrigeration Systems
Ice Cream Freezer
All Jobs Guaranteed

30 years of Experience

Reparation & Maintenance

Luis Castellanos
owner

Address: 470 Bay lake pass,
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Tel.: 610-816-8744
Email: el-piloto52@hotmail.com

Finally

**A clog-free gutter
with no fine print.**

The Real GUTTER PROTECTOR
NO GLUE, NO OVERSEAL, GUARANTEED

You'll never have to clean your gutters again. The Real Gutter Protector's Waterloov® System uses a patented design that slows water more effectively and draws water in more completely, with smaller openings that keep out more debris. <http://www.realgutterprotector.com>

Atlanta, Georgia - (770) 630-1582

Real Estate Broker



**Century 21
21 Results Realty**

**Buying* Selling* Investing
For Any Real Estate
Matters**

There has never been a
better time to invest in Real
Estate

**Inventory is LOW
It's a Seller's Market**

SHARON ADCOCK

CRS, GRI, e-Pro,
Relocation Expert,
Associate Broker

www.SharonAdcock.com
2920 Ronald Reagan Blvd
Cumming, GA 30041



Not intended

Sharon@
SharonAdcock.com
Cell: 404-428-9127
eFax 678-679-1383